

History in Practice II: Medieval History (A006729)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Speecke, Mathijs	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
De Paermentier, Els	LW03	co-lecturer
Govaerts, Sander	LW03	co-lecturer
Rosbrook, Catherine	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Middle Ages, critical analysis of historical sources and literature, historical research

Position of the course

This advanced course aims to teach students, through practical exercises, the necessary attitude and skills in order (1) to search independently, starting from a specific research question or set of questions, for sources and literature, (2) to choose and apply the appropriate methods and strategies in order to interpret and analyse the sources and literature critically in relation to the research question(s), and (3) to synthesize the results of the research.

Contents

Getting acquainted with primary sources, secondary literature and methodologies for the practice of social, political and cultural history of the Middle Ages.

The students have to participate in two different thematic modules that will be organized in the first and second term respectively.

Initial competences

Have successfully completed the course "Introduction to Historical Research" and a "Historical Practice I" class, or their equivalent. For Erasmus students, or students who want to follow this course as a preparatory course, the lecturer is able to ascertain that they have acquired the requisite skills in another manner.

Final competences

- 1 Have insight into the methodology of history.
- 2 Have basic knowledge of the diverse medieval sources and scientific literature for use in historical research and the specialist skills requisite to reading and interpreting medieval sources.
- 3 Have the ability to initiate new research relative to a specific historical research question.
- 4 Have the ability to place the result of historical research within the correct national and international historiographical context, to evaluate this research and implement it in one's own research.
- 5 Have the ability to outline a simple strategy for historical research in the form of a step-by-step plan.

- 6 Have the ability to critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques.
- 7 Have the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
- 8 Have the ability to use scientific criteria to substantiate a heuristic method and historical bibliographical research.
- 9 Have the ability to evaluate and report on (one's own) historical research.
- 10 Be conscious of the importance of scientific integrity.
- 11 Have the ability to critically reflect upon the role of the global perspective, the dynamics of processes, and recurrences in historical situations.
- 12 Have an inquiring attitude with a love of historical critique and creativity, and with a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
- 13 Have the ability to summarize ongoing scientific discussions in the historiography relative to a medieval topic using an adequate critical apparatus.
- 14 Have the ability to communicate the results of historical research with both experts and laypersons, either orally or in writing.
- 15 Have the ability to work with one's colleagues on a project.
- 16 Have insight into the way in which historical scientific research works and is organized.
- 17 Have insight into how related human and social sciences work.
- 18 Have insight into the organization and working of archives and heritage institutions.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Excursion, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Given the mandatory attendance at classes and excursions, no lecture recordings will be made.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Pdfs van artikels en bronnen op ufora, maar vooral ook zelf te zoeken in de bibliotheek.

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Regular feedback during the preparation of the teamwork and microteaching and during the editing process of the individual papers: during the lessons + by mail or appointment. Support by means of course materials available on Ufora.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Teamwork and microteaching (30%)

Participation in class and excursions (10%)

Attendance at classes and excursions is mandatory.

Individual paper (60%): The paper must be submitted at the end of each module (beginning of January and end of May resp.).

The following criteria will be used in the assessment: 1. formulating a clear, sound and realistic research question; 2. adequate heuristical research and critical analysis/interpretation of the sources with regard to the research question(s); 3. adequate research and use of secondary literature; 4. formulating a clear and relevant conclusion; 5. adequate language and style; 6. proper use of generative AI.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% non-periodical assessment.

Students are required to participate in each form of assessment (group work, class participation, and the individual paper) in order to pass the course as a whole. Any student who has not taken part in at least one of the mandatory components will receive the designation "absent" on their grade report. Furthermore, students must pass each of the modules and both individual papers in order to pass the course overall. If a student fails one of the modules, but the average final score across both modules would nevertheless amount to ten or more out of twenty, this will be reduced to the highest failing mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task is imposed in substitution after discussion with the lecturer
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy